

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING H.R. 1996

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of endorsement for H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

APRIL 19, 2021.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,

Majority Leader,

Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,

Minority Leader

Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House,

Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,

Minority Leader,

Washington, DC.

Hon. SHERROD BROWN,

Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing

and Urban Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. PAT TOOMEY,

Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Bank-

ing, Housing and Urban Affairs, Wash-

ington, DC.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,

Chair, House Committee on Financial Services,

Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,

Ranking Member, House Committee on Finan-

cial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS: As our States' chief executives, we urge Congress to pass legislation allowing states with legalized medical or adult-use cannabis to operate safely under the national banking system. We strongly support the passage of the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021 (H.R. 1996/S. 910) or similar legislation that would remove the legal uncertainty and allow banks and credit unions to provide services to state-licensed cannabis-related businesses.

We were pleased that the House passed similar legislation in the 116th Congress (H.R. 1595). The SAFE Banking Act of 2021 already has more than 165 bipartisan House cosponsors and more than 30 bipartisan Senate cosponsors. The legislation has also received support from more than 30 associations.

Currently, 36 U.S. states, four U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have legalized the medical use of cannabis. Additionally, 18 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational use by adults over 21 years of age. Despite legalization of cannabis at the state-level, our financial institutions face enormous legal risks and criminal and civil liability under the Controlled Substances Act. These barriers disincentive financial institutions from providing banking services to state-licensed and regulated cannabis businesses.

Because few banks and credit unions provide these services, state-licensed cannabis businesses predominantly operate on a cash basis. Without banking services, state-licensed cannabis businesses are unable to write checks, make and receive electronic payments, utilize a payroll provider, or accept credit and debit cards. Cash only busi-

nesses pose a significant public safety risk to customers and employees. The cash-only environment also burdens state and local government agencies that must collect tax and fee payments in person and in cash, which creates additional public expenses and employee safety risks.

State and federal governments have a shared interest in upholding the rule of law, protecting public safety, and transitioning markets out of the shadows and into our transparent and regulated banking system. Many of our states have implemented laws and regulations to reduce these risks while ensuring financial accountability of the cannabis industry. These public safety risks can be further mitigated on the federal level by passing the SAFE Banking Act to provide state-licensed cannabis businesses with access to banking service providers.

We urge you to pass the SAFE Banking Act of 2021 or similar legislation that would provide a safe harbor for depository institutions that provide a financial product or service to a state-licensed cannabis business in states that have legalized cannabis. We look forward to working with you as legislation progresses to address this urgent public policy and safety concern.

Sincerely,

Governor Jared Polis, State of Colorado; Governor Gavin Newsom, State of California; Governor Ned Lamont, State of Connecticut; Governor JB Pritzker, State of Illinois; Governor John Bel Edwards, State of Louisiana; Governor Janet Mills, State of Maine; Governor Charlie Baker, State of Massachusetts; Governor Gretchen Whitmer, State of Michigan; Governor Steve Sisolak, State of Nevada; Governor Phil Murphy, State of New Jersey; Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, State of New Mexico; Governor Andrew Cuomo, State of New York; Governor Doug Burgum, State of North Dakota; Governor Kate Brown, State of Oregon; Governor Tom Wolf, State of Pennsylvania; Governor Spencer Cox, State of Utah; Governor Albert Bryan, Territory of U.S. Virgin Islands; Governor Ralph Northam, State of Virginia; Governor Jay Inslee, State of Washington; Governor Jim Justice, State of West Virginia; Governor Tony Evers, State of Wisconsin.

APRIL 19, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,

Minority Leader, House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the undersigned state bankers associations, representing banks of all sizes; we write to express our support for H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act (SAFE Banking Act) of 2021. This strongly bipartisan legislation scheduled for consideration on this week's suspension calendar would be an important step to address the conflict between federal and state laws and how banks safely work with legal cannabis and cannabis related businesses.

Although we do not take a position on the legalization of marijuana, our members are

committed to serving the financial needs of their communities—including those that have voted to legalize cannabis. Currently, 36 states covering 70 percent of the nation's population have legalized cannabis for medical or adult-use. Despite this ever-growing voter preference, current federal law continues to prevent banks from safely banking these businesses without fear of federal sanctions. As a result, this segment of our local economies is forced to operate on an all-cash basis, which creates serious public safety, revenue administration, and legal compliance concerns in the communities we serve.

The impact on our local economies could also prove significant, as revenue paid to unrelated industries that provide products and services to state-authorized cannabis businesses such as law firms, accountants and contractors is technically money derived from illegal activities, and thus could be considered money laundering. This raises the significant question of whether financial institutions can bank these ancillary businesses, as such actions could likewise be considered violations of the money laundering laws. Without a change to federal law, that entire portion of economic activity in legal cannabis states may be marginalized from the banking system.

The SAFE Banking Act is a banking-specific bipartisan solution that would address the reality of the current marketplace and allow banks to serve cannabis-related businesses in states where the activity is legal.

We urge members of the House of Representatives to support H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act, when this bill comes before the House on this week's suspension calendar.

Sincerely,

Alabama Bankers Association, Alaska Bankers Association, Arizona Bankers Association, Arkansas Bankers Association, California Bankers Association, Colorado Bankers Association, Connecticut Bankers Association, Delaware Bankers Association, Florida Bankers Association, Georgia Bankers Association, Hawaii Bankers Association, Idaho Bankers Association, Illinois Bankers Association, Indiana Bankers Association, Iowa Bankers Association.

Kansas Bankers Association, Kentucky Bankers Association, Louisiana Bankers Association, Maine Bankers Association, Maryland Bankers Association, Massachusetts Bankers Association, Michigan Bankers Association, Minnesota Bankers Association, Mississippi Bankers Association, Missouri Bankers Association, Montana Bankers Association, Nebraska Bankers Association, Nevada Bankers Association, New Hampshire Bankers Association, New Jersey Bankers Association.

New Mexico Bankers Association, New York Bankers Association, North Carolina Bankers Association, North Dakota Bankers Association, Ohio Bankers Association, Oklahoma Bankers Association, Oregon Bankers Association, Pennsylvania Bankers Association, Puerto Rico Bankers Association, Rhode Island Bankers Association, South Carolina Bankers Association, South Dakota Bankers Association, Tennessee Bankers Association, Texas Bankers Association, Utah Bankers Association, Vermont Bankers Association, Virginia Bankers Association, Washington Bankers Association, West Virginia Bankers Association, Wisconsin Bankers Association, Wyoming Bankers Association.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

US CANNABIS COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2021.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STEVE STIVERS,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.
Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.
Hon. WARREN DAVIDSON,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PERLMUTTER, VELÁZQUEZ, STIVERS AND DAVIDSON: On behalf of the United States Cannabis Council (USCG), I write to you to support the swift passage of H.R. 1996, also known as the SAFE Banking Act.

The SAFE Banking Act addresses a crucial problem within the emerging cannabis industry: access to regulated financial services. As states continue to legalize cannabis, opening new economic opportunities for business owners, one problem continues to persist—Black Americans and other racial minorities are precluded from the state-legal industry due to a lack of financing and barriers to entry.

By protecting banking institutions that extend financial services to the cannabis industry, existing operators and minority-owned businesses seeking access into the industry benefit from access to institutional capital. Indeed, today's situation is reminiscent of a previous era in which minorities were routinely redlined out of access to banking credit, capital, and cash. The SAFE Banking Act would alleviate the problem of minority equity and access with the cannabis industry in crucial ways. Further, it protects the 321,000 employees directly affected by the cannabis industry's lack of access and whose retirement, insurance, and banking accesses are constantly in peril.

It is imperative that the SAFE Banking Act is passed by the House of Representatives. In doing so, the House would take a meaningful first step in establishing a more equitable cannabis industry within the US, ensuring minorities that were most affected by the War on Drugs are properly represented. The US Cannabis Council voices its support for H.R. 1996 and commends the bill authors and Speaker PELOSI for your and her attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

STEVEN W. HAWKINS,
Interim President & CEO,
U.S. Cannabis Council.

SUPPORTING H.R. 1996

HON. WARREN DAVIDSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. DAVIDSON. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of endorsement for H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

LAW ENFORCEMENT
ACTION PARTNERSHIP,
Medford, MA, March 17, 2021.

RE SAFE Banking Act—Position: Support.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.
Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STEVE STIVERS,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.
Hon. WARREN DAVIDSON,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PERLMUTTER, VELÁZQUEZ, STIVERS, AND DAVIDSON: Thank you for the opportunity to once again participate in this historic discussion of the SAFE Banking Act. LEAP's previous executive director, Major Neill Franklin (Ret.), was honored to have testified in the subcommittee hearing in 2019 and we would like to affirm our ongoing support of this important bill.

I spent 21 years in law enforcement, and upon leaving, I continued to serve the public. My mission has always been, and will always be, to promote safety and justice. As the executive director of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP), a nonpartisan, nonprofit of police prosecutors, judges and other criminal justice professionals, I've helped ensure our mission is to mobilize the voice of law enforcement in support of policies that will make us all safer.

At a time when more than a dozen states have voted to regulate and control marijuana, and dozens more have implemented programs for medical marijuana, it is beyond time for the federal government to update the banking system to support these democratic choices.

When my predecessor testified in 2019, he told the story of a dispensary owner from Orange County, California, who was kidnapped, tortured, permanently mutilated, and left for dead. By the grace of God, he survived this despicable act of violence, but the conditions under which marijuana industry workers risk similar victimization persist.

The conditions persist because one of the fastest growing markets in the country has nowhere to legally put its money. When thieves know a business is operating in cash, it becomes a fairly simple matter to target the owners and employees. Suddenly, something as mundane as making a tax payment becomes a potentially lethal situation.

This lack of regulatory framework is precisely why voters have made the drug legal in some parts of the country. Underground markets enrich criminals at the expense of everyone's safety. We cannot simply acknowledge marijuana is now legal in some states or look the other way while it happens; we have to build a model for how to keep people safe while voters decide to move the industry above-ground.

Police agencies can access financial records more easily when the trans-

actions are documented in secure banking records. Banks can assist with investigations by flagging suspicious activity and alerting authorities to businesses that may be involved in organized crime. Financial records are used to locate people, estimate the size of an organization, and build cases against hardened criminals. A well-known example is Al Capone, who, after a lifetime of notoriety, was finally arrested for tax-evasion. When marijuana businesses have to work with cash, banks have limited ability to flag suspicious activity—and otherwise legal businesses are more likely to be overrun by cartels in the absence of a paper trail.

I'm not one for fear mongering—what I testify to is rooted in experience and research. Any police officer who has worked the street or investigated enough robberies will testify to the same regarding any business forced to handle large amounts of cash.

The SAFE Banking Act presents us with an opportunity to help stabilize the marijuana industry and enhance public safety. I believe it is my responsibility as a lifelong public servant to stay involved in this legislation to the very end.

Thank you for your time and for bringing the SAFE Banking Act to a vote.

Respectfully,

LIEUTENANT DIANE
GOLDSTEIN (Ret.),

Executive Director,

Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP).

MOUNTAIN WEST

CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION,
Denver, CO, March 18, 2021.

Congressman ED PERLMUTTER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERLMUTTER: I write to you today in support of the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021. This legislation provides important protections for our credit unions that wish to provide financial services to legal entities in their states.

As financial services providers serving nearly 4 million members in Arizona, Colorado and Wyoming, credit unions play a central role in our communities by fulfilling banking needs that may not be otherwise available. Currently, however, we cannot serve an industry that generates several billion dollars in sales and tax revenues—the recreational cannabis industry—without substantial risk due to ongoing uncertainty over federal enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act. This has become not only a states' rights issue, but an important public safety issue. Without access to standard banking services, some of these companies have had to come up with alternative solutions. Many are unable to undertake the most basic functions of successful businesses, such as paying vendors, employees, and taxes, but instead have large amounts of money unsecured, unaccountable and at risk for abuse.

The SAFE Banking Act would provide the safe harbor we need as financial services providers to service this growing industry and protect our members and the taxpayers of our states. This is a matter independent of the question of legalization of cannabis and is about ensuring that legal businesses have the basic financial services they need for compliance and accountability.

Thank for your leadership on this issue. We hope Congress will take swift action to address this matter and pass the SAFE Banking Act without delay.

Sincerely,

SCOTT EARL,
President/CEO,

Mountain West Credit Union Association.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FEDERALLY-INSURED CREDIT
UNIONS,

Arlington, VA, April 19, 2021.

Re H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: I write to you today on behalf of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU) in conjunction with the House's scheduled vote on H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021, to urge the House to support this legislation. NAFCU advocates for all federally-insured not-for-profit credit unions that, in turn, serve over 124 million consumers with personal and small business financial service products.

As you are aware, the vast majority of states have authorized varying degrees of marijuana use, ranging from limited medical use to decriminalization and recreational use at the state-level. NAFCU has heard from a number of our member credit unions in these states that they are being approached by their members, or potential members, that have a small business in or are serving the legal cannabis industry in their state and are seeking banking services for their small business.

As the cultivation, sale, distribution, and possession of marijuana remains illegal at the federal level under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, the majority of credit unions remain hesitant to provide financial services to these members and their small businesses. While the 2013 memo from U.S. Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole ("Cole Memo") and the 2014 guidance from FinCEN have attempted to provide clarity to financial institutions, uncertainty remains for financial institutions in this area. Guidance can be rescinded at any time and in fact, former Attorney General Jeff Sessions took action in 2018 to essentially rescind the "Cole Memo." For financial institutions, such as credit unions, there are additional regulatory challenges that compound the uncertainty of providing financial services to state-authorized marijuana-related businesses (MRBs). These go beyond just concerns about criminal or civil penalties, but also extend to requirements related to proper Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) and anti-money laundering (AML) filings as required under the Bank Secrecy Act, access to federal deposit insurance and a Federal Reserve master account, and even potential issues with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Missteps in these areas could prove devastating to an institution. It should be noted that these risks also exist when providing financial services to ancillary businesses that provide products and services to MRBs and fall within the credit union's field of membership, even if the state-authorized MRB does not.

NAFCU does not have, and is not taking, a position on the broader question of the legalization or decriminalization of marijuana at any degree at the federal or state level. However, we do support Congress taking the steps found in H.R. 1996 to provide greater clarity and legal certainty at the federal

level for credit unions that choose to provide financial services to state-authorized MRBs and ancillary businesses that may serve those businesses in states where such activity is legal. While H.R. 1996 does not address every issue on this front, it seeks to provide a safe harbor for financial institutions that wish to serve such businesses and would be an important step towards improving clarity and addressing what is often perceived as misalignment between federal and state laws. It is with this in mind that NAFCU urges you to support the SAFE Banking Act of 2021 when it comes before the House.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other issues of importance to credit unions. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Sarah Jacobs, NAFCU's Associate Director of Legislative Affairs.

Sincerely,

BRAD THALER,
Vice President of Legislative Affairs.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE TREASURERS,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2021.

Hon. SHERROD BROWN,
Chair, Committee on Banking,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chair, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. PAT TOOMEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Banking,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BROWN, SENATOR TOOMEY, REPRESENTATIVE WATERS AND REPRESENTATIVE MCHENRY: On behalf of the nation's State Treasurers, I wanted to thank you for your leadership on critical state finance issues and to express our support for the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021 (H.R. 1996). While we do not take any formal position on efforts to expand the legality of cannabis—medical or recreational—our association remains concerned by the ancillary effects posed by legitimate participants in the industry lacking reliable access to the federally regulated banking system.

By July of this year, 15 states and the District of Columbia will have legalized adult use cannabis, and 36 states will have legalized access to medical cannabis. Nonetheless, conflicts between federal banking laws and state cannabis laws create unsafe conditions where many cannabis related businesses rely on cash-only business models, despite otherwise fully complying with their state's health and safety rules. Unbanked cannabis businesses are frequently unable to write checks, make and receive electronic payments, utilize payroll providers, accept debit or credit cards, or pay taxes through a financial institution. The condition makes tax collection more difficult and burdensome for both businesses and governments, and substantially increases the likelihood of tax fraud. The inability to access banking services not only directly impacts cannabis businesses, but also the secondary service providers in our states who do business with them.

The National Association of State Treasurers continues to support commonsense federal laws and regulations to provide essential banking services to legitimate cannabis businesses, promote public safety and financial transparency, and facilitate tax and fee collection without compromising federal enforcement of anti-money laundering laws

against criminal enterprises. To that extent, we fully support the key elements of the SAFE Banking Act that comport with our association's policy as outlined in this letter and that is contained in our policy resolution (see attachment). We also thank Rep. Perlmutter, Rep. Stivers, Sen. Merkley, Sen. Daines and all of their colleagues for leading on this issue.

I have asked our policy director, Brian Egan, to follow up with your offices should you have any questions, comments or concerns. Please consider our members and professional staff as resources to you and your teams.

Thank you again for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

SHAUN SNYDER,
Executive Director,
National Association of State Treasurers
(NAST).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2021.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STEVE STIVERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. WARREN DAVIDSON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PERLMUTTER, STIVERS, VELÁZQUEZ, AND DAVIDSON: On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the National Association of REALTORS (NAR) and its affiliate, the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM), thank you for introducing the "Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021." This bipartisan bill provides a clear framework for cannabis businesses to access financial services. As more states legalize cannabis use, the industry continues to rapidly grow, with more than \$10 billion in sales and \$1 billion in state tax revenue already recorded. However, the barriers keeping these state-legal businesses from accessing federally-insured banks can impede their ability to grow while raising safety issues in their communities.

Thirty-six states have legalized cannabis for medical or recreational use, a number that is expected to continue to go up in the coming years. Despite this, current federal law prevents federally-insured banks from working with cannabis businesses, as well as ancillary businesses that provide them with goods and services—including real estate professionals who have cannabis business owners as their clients. As a result, those states are struggling to address significant challenges to public safety and the regulatory compliance issues that arise with cash-only businesses.

The SAFE Banking Act takes an important step toward enabling financial services for legitimate cannabis-related businesses by specifying that their proceeds will not be considered unlawful under federal money laundering laws, thus allowing these businesses access to federally-insured banking institutions. Further, it directs the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and federal banking regulators to issue guidance and exam procedures for banks working with cannabis businesses. As the legal state-cannabis industry grows, the connections to other types of industries—including real estate—will grow as well.

State-legal cannabis businesses require real estate—farmland, warehouses, and storefronts—creating multiple contacts to other industries and businesses, each of

which is affected by current laws keeping their money out of the bank system. The SAFE Banking Act provides clarity for business owners, banks, and regulators in the cannabis industry while promoting safety and ensuring further growth to the U.S. economy.

REALTORS thank you for your diligent work to help provide access and clarity to legitimate businesses in those states that have legalized cannabis, which in turn will boost economic growth in real estate and other industries around the country.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE OPPLER,
2021 President,
National Association of REALTORS.

RECOGNIZING GITANJALI RAO,
COLORADO'S 4TH DISTRICT CON-
GRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE
WINNER

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Gitanjali Rao for being selected as Colorado's 4th District Congressional App Challenge Winner. With one in five pre-teens in the U.S. reporting being cyberbullied, cyberbullying others, or having seen cyberbullying, Ms. Rao's app "Kindly" serves as a preventative measure to help protect America's children from this unfortunately common harassment.

Ms. Rao, a student at STEM School Highlands Ranch and TIME's 2020 Kid of the Year, created the app "Kindly", a one-of-a-kind app that uses artificial intelligence algorithms to detect and prevent cyberbullying at an early stage. Ms. Rao's commitment to young people affected by cyberbullying is a credit to her. Her hard work and ingenuity are showcased through this thoughtful, innovative app. She has shown true leadership in her community, and her app will help defeat cyberbullying around the country.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Ms. Rao. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Ms. Rao for her great accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL ARAB
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MARIE NEWMAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate April as Arab American Heritage Month and honor the outstanding contributions that Arab Americans have made to this country.

For over a century, Arab Americans have been an integral part of virtually every aspect of American society, including medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, and culture. The incredible contributions and heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better nation.

Men and women of Arab descent have strengthened their communities through involvement in community service and public life

and by sharing their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends. In Illinois' Third District, which has one of the largest concentrations of Palestinian, Jordanian, and Syrian Americans in the country, the Arab American community is a fundamental part of our civic life and culture.

Unfortunately, Arab Americans continue to face misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate. These civil rights abuses, and instances of harmful stereotyping and bullying, must be combatted through education, awareness, and legislation.

Arab Americans join all Americans in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe; we must continue to work towards a future where every American is able to live free from discrimination.

I am proud to celebrate the extraordinary contributions Arab Americans have made to this country, and I am deeply honored to recognize National Arab American Heritage month this April.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on the Legislative Day of April 19, 2021. For the purposes of supporting human rights around the world, had I been present for the roll call vote H. Res. 130—Condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative, I would have cast the following vote:

Roll Call 121: Yea.

IN MEMORY OF MARY SOMERS
BALLARD

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Mary Somers Ballard. Mrs. Ballard was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts on July 22nd, 1919. She passed away on April 14, 2021.

Mrs. Ballard was a descendant of two of the co-founders of Rhode Island. She was a proud New Englander who trained in nursing at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Massachusetts. She enrolled at Boston University and worked at Massachusetts General Hospital. At the age of 23, she entered the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, 811th Air Evacuation Squadron. When asked why she joined the military, she said "We were at war. I joined the Army Air Corps because I thought I could make a contribution." First Lieutenant Somers served two years in England. Following D-Day, she cared for the wounded soldiers in hospital flights from France and Germany to England. Mrs. Somers was stationed with U.S. troops behind enemy lines during the Battle of the Bulge and entered Paris the day after its liberation. After the war, she remained in the reserves until she married.

First Lt. Somers met her physician husband, Captain Joseph Aloysius Ballard, while serving at the Chanute Field Army Hospital in Illinois. They married on April 2, 1948. Dr. and Mrs. Ballard made their home in Lexington, Kentucky, where they raised eight children and were active members of Christ the King Church. Mrs. Ballard had 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, with 2 more expected in July. In 2015, at the age of 95, Mrs. Ballard threw out the first pitch at the Lexington Legends Military Appreciation Night to highlight Kentucky's women veterans.

It is my honor to recognize this amazing patriot, celebrate her life, and appreciate her for her service and sacrifice to our nation during World War II. As a part of "The Greatest Generation", Mrs. Ballard was an important part of the war effort to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am forever grateful for Americans like Mary Somers Ballard.

DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join thousands of organizations and individuals around the country in observation of Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Ten years ago, a mother who lost her daughter to a distracted driving crash successfully petitioned this body to have April officially designated as Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Unfortunately, we are still dealing with the impact of distracted driving on our roadways.

Research shows that using electronic devices increases cognitive distraction. This can be deadly on the road, where a split-second distraction can cause a crash. Approximately 3,142 people died in distraction affected driving crashes in 2019—that's eight people every day dying from a completely preventable cause—and this number is widely believed to be undercounted.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the roads have become much more dangerous. Motor vehicle deaths in 2020 are estimated to be the highest in 13 years, despite dramatic drops in miles driven Americans stayed home. While it's too early to have a full understanding of what caused this increase in the number of people dying in crashes, distraction certainly played a part.

Recognizing these dangerous trends, I'm proud to be the leader of the SAFE TO DRIVE Act with my colleagues MIKE GALLAGHER and STEVE COHEN. SAFE TO DRIVE incentivizes states to pass laws eliminating distraction on our roadways. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting passage of this legislation.

I encourage all motorists to commit to driving attentively and safely, without the distraction of cell phones or other devices. I also hope my colleagues will join me this month in raising awareness about this important issue. Do it for all of our constituents. Their lives are more valuable than any call, email, or text.

CONGRATULATING SHERIFF
TYSON STEPHENS ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sheriff Tyson Stephens, Emanuel County's longest-serving sheriff, on his recent retirement.

Sheriff Stephens first entered public service in 1982, and has spent his career ensuring the community is a safe place to live, work and raise a family. He has certainly made an impact on Emanuel County, and it will continue to be felt for years to come.

I know that his family has made many sacrifices over the past three decades, and it is time for him to enjoy this next chapter with his wife, children and grandchildren. I thank Sheriff Stephens for his service and commitment, and congratulations on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATTHEW D. GORSUCH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Matthew D. Gorsuch of the U.S. Air Force, upon his departure from the Department of the Air Force Directorate of Legislative Liaison. Assigned as a Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives, Lieutenant Colonel Gorsuch served as a critical bridge between key senior leaders within the Department of Defense, to include the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Chief of Space Operations and 147 assigned Members of Congress, to include the Speaker and the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Over these past two years, he led international travel for four Speaker congressional delegations, including bi-lateral engagements with state leaders from the United Kingdom, France, and Poland, strengthening bonds with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. His actions reinforced Federal priorities for both the fiscal years 2020 and 2021 National Defense Authorization Acts. He will be deeply missed after exceptional years of service.

Lieutenant Colonel Gorsuch is a native of Leoti, Kansas, and is a graduate of Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's of Business Administration. He is a 2018 graduated Defense Legislative Fellow.

Lieutenant Colonel Gorsuch began his career in 2003 at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, as a First Assignment Instructor Pilot, and has since held numerous Special Operations assignments, flying the MC-130H Combat Talon II at Hurlburt Field, Florida, and Royal Air Force Mildenhall in the United Kingdom. Trusted for his tactical acumen, he was assigned as a Combat Air Advisor in the 711th Special Operations Squadron, the very same squadron he is departing the Legislative Liaison to Command. His extensive background in

aviation has been critical to our work in strengthening, recapitalizing, and building our Nation's air and space forces.

This moment is bittersweet, as we are deeply saddened to see Matt go. However, we are excited for what awaits him, wish him luck as he commands his prior unit, and look forward to seeing what his future holds.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Lieutenant Colonel Gorsuch for his dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force, U.S. House of Representatives, and to our Nation.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVER- SARY OF FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Fredericksburg, Texas. Fredericksburg was founded on May 8, 1846, by Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach as the second prominent German settlement in the Texas Hill Country. Those brave settlers established a cordial relationship with the local Comanche tribes allowing the town to grow into what it is today. Now many years later, Fredericksburg has grown into the national spotlight for its wonderful attractions and rich German-Texan culture.

Sites throughout Fredericksburg are near and dear to my heart. I love to visit Luckenbach dance hall with my family and listen to local songwriters cover Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson. I recommend visiting fields of bluebonnets and wildflowers in the spring and enjoying some world-famous peaches in the summer. While some of the buildings and faces have changed in Fredericksburg, the people are still the same hardworking, friendly Texans who helped mold the state.

Fredericksburg is full of American history. Giants like Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz call Fredericksburg home. Admiral Nimitz led American forces to victory in the battle of Midway, regarded as the most important battle in Naval History. The beautiful National Museum of the Pacific War, named in his honor, resides in downtown Fredericksburg.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to the many figures who helped shape the history of Fredericksburg. I want to extend my thanks to the Mayor and city leadership who have worked with me on important issues throughout my first two terms, and to groups like the Gillespie County Historical Society who work hard to preserve the history of the region. It is an immense privilege to serve those who will continue to shape the future of Fredericksburg, Texas for the next 175 years.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the town of Fredericksburg on this historic occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 77TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF EXERCISE TIGER

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep and poignant gratitude that I rise today to celebrate the American heroes who lost their lives seventy-seven years ago during Exercise Tiger. Paving the way for the D-Day invasion that would take place on June 6, 1944, Exercise Tiger, while once kept secret, is now regarded as having been both a tragedy and a critically instructive component of the Allies' mission to end World War II. The lives lost on that fateful day were honored by the soldiers who learned from Exercise Tiger and carried their memory into battle during the liberation of France. It is a story we must never allow ourselves to forget.

Before the assembled British, Canadian, and American forces could carry out the D-Day invasion, 4,000 soldiers conducted a massive simulated landing to rehearse and prepare for that immeasurably vital military act. However, what started as a military exercise ended as one of the greatest military tragedies of World War II. The calm, dark night of April 28, 1944, burst into chaos and combat when German U-boats ambushed the Tank Landing Ships (LSTs) transporting American soldiers. Almost 750 American servicemen, including over 200 Missourians, would give their last full measure of devotion when their vessels were either destroyed or severely damaged. But Allied forces would not be deterred, as the brave soldiers on those vessels banded together to repel enemy attacks and move forward with their mission. Even in the face of immense loss, a well-equipped enemy force, and little help from nearby Allied forces, the tenacity and determination of the soldiers and sailors involved ensured that the landing operations would continue mere hours after the initial attack. Allied Commanders planning the eventual D-Day invasion learned from Exercise Tiger and incorporated new strategies to ensure soldiers would be protected from barrage before landing on the beach. Without the bravery of the forces that fought that day, it is possible that even more American, Canadian, and British lives would have been lost on D-Day, and that the invasion of France, which hinged on secrecy, speed, and synchronicity, would have failed. It is not hyperbole to say that the soldiers and sailors of Exercise Tiger changed the course of world history and that we are forever indebted to their sacrifice.

It is a time-honored tradition in the United States for us to gather and celebrate the heroism and sacrifices of the countless fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and children who have died to protect our nation from foreign and domestic threats. On the last Monday of May, thousands congregate to quietly observe and remember the names found on marble headstones cascading across Arlington National Cemetery. On the fourth day of July, we join friends and family for a celebration of our nation's independence. On each November 11th, we reach out to the veterans in our lives, thank them for their service, and if we are lucky, listen to their stories of service. Scattered between these national celebrations are memorials hosted in small towns and big cities

across America that pay tribute to the local legends who fought to protect the freedoms we hold dear. Every year since 1989, the Exercise Tiger Commemorative Foundation, alongside the Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light, have celebrated the heroes of Exercise Tiger with a wreath-laying ceremony at stations across the United States. It is now the longest-running wreath tribute in Coast Guard history.

Moreover, this year, the Exercise Tiger Commemorative Foundation has worked with the Audrain County Commissioners to memorialize and celebrate the oft-overlooked heroism of our nation's Black soldiers and sailors. We must never lose sight of the fact that while Black soldiers were fighting for the freedom of France, they themselves were not free in America. As they parachuted in Normandy and stormed Omaha and Utah Beaches, our nation was upholding the horrors of segregation and Jim Crow. They did so because they believed in the promise of America. We are all eternally indebted to that faith and their sacrifices, and I want to thank the Foundation and the Audrain County Commissioners for working to ensure that all our veterans receive the praise, glory, and honor they have earned.

A 5,000-pound anchor, located in Audrain County, serves as the memorial for the heroes of Exercise Tiger. However, it is more than just a relic of the past. Rather, it is a constant reminder that our freedom was paid for by the sacrifices of those who came before us. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a blue ribbon was wrapped around that anchor, and it was only to be cut down when a vaccine was developed. On April 28, 2021, as our scientists, healthcare workers, and soldiers engage in a noble crusade against COVID-19 at vaccination sites across the country, that ribbon will be removed. While its removal does not signal the end of the pandemic, it does celebrate the fact that we are accomplishing what seemed impossible just months ago. We have demonstrated, like the Greatest Generation before us, that America can overcome any threat when we are united, be it a fleet of enemy submarines or an elusive virus. That capacity will always be worth celebrating.

Madam Speaker, please join me and my colleagues in honoring the nearly 750 Americans, including 201 Missourians, who gave their lives during Exercise Tiger. Additionally, please join me in extending a heartfelt "thank you" to the Audrain County Commissioners, the Exercise Tiger Commemorative Foundation, and the Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light, for organizing these memorial events each year since 1989. On April 28th, it is my fervent hope that we all take a moment to remember the victims and veterans of Exercise Tiger and to re-affirm our commitment to honoring their legacy each day through selfless service to others in our community.

HONORING DR. KANIKA BOWEN-JALLOW

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Dr. Kanika Bowen-Jallow, a respected pediatric surgeon at Cook Children's Pediatric Hospital in Prosper, Texas.

As a child, Kanika developed an early fascination for medicine, spending hours playing Operation and with her Playskool Doctor Kit. This desire to care for others would continue to grow, prompting her to diligently work towards her medical degree at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and later spending an additional nine years training to become a pediatric surgeon. Dr. Bowen-Jallow credits her success to the support of her loving family who encouraged her to pursue her education and realize her dreams.

Recently, the American Pediatric Surgical Association recognized Dr. Bowen-Jallow as the ninth Black female pediatric surgeon in the U.S.

Dr. Bowen-Jallow's dedication to providing the highest quality of care is evidenced by her involvement in a variety of professional organizations, including the American Pediatric Surgical Association, as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a number of national committees that address the need for excellent, comprehensive pediatric surgical care. Further, her research in the area of childhood obesity has earned her multiple recognitions from respected publications. Additionally, Dr. Bowen-Jallow consistently works to increase and promote diversity in medicine, serving tirelessly as a mentor to young people in communities of color.

As a highly esteemed surgeon, educator, mother, and wife, Dr. Kanika Bowen-Jallow recognizes the trust and faith placed in her by patients and their families and serves as a shining example of service before self. I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Dr. Bowen-Jallow's many achievements in the area of medicine and wish her continued success as she serves as an inspiration to those around her.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE
OF THE HONORABLE GENE
MULLIN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Eugene Mullin, known to all as Gene, who died on April 5, 2021, three years after being diagnosed with cancer. He was born in the San Francisco Bay Area on April 21, 1937, and lived most of his life in South San Francisco.

Gene Mullin gave generously of his time and considerable talents in service to our country, serving in the Judge Advocate Corps of the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1960, and earned a Bachelor's degree and a lifetime secondary teaching certificate from the University of San Francisco (USF).

A lifelong teacher, Gene Mullin taught Social Studies at South San Francisco High School for 32 years. He was named the San Mateo County Teacher of the Year in 1991, was honored as Alumnus of the Year 2011 by USF's School of Education, and Riordan High School's first Alumnus of the Year in 2010. He coached basketball for two decades, served as President of the SSF CTA, and made educational videos on social studies topics. Thou-

sands of South San Francisco students benefited from his complete dedication to them and his commitment to their education.

Gene Mullin began his career in local public service in 1972 when he was appointed to the South San Francisco Planning Commission. He served seven years on the South San Francisco City Council, two of them as Mayor. He was elected to the California State Assembly in 2002, representing California's 19th Assembly District, and served for three exemplary terms. Gene wrote several books about local government and received numerous well-deserved awards and honors for his public service. He will be remembered for his devotion to the people of South San Francisco, and particularly to the youth of the community and his role in getting them involved in government. He was a hardworking legislator who set the gold standard for public office with his integrity and commitment to his constituents.

Gene Mullin was preceded in death by his beloved wife Terri. He leaves his son, Kevin Mullin, who is currently the Speaker Pro Tempore of the California State Assembly, his daughter Jennifer, and five adored grandsons.

Gene's son Kevin said "His legacy on civic engagement lives on through the lives of his legions of students, as well as his children and grandchildren. He was our proverbial north star and we'll never be the same with him gone."

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in extending our condolences to Gene Mullin's family. Gene was a cherished friend and I had the deepest admiration and respect for him. He was a great and good man, a superb educator, a highly effective legislator and a mentor to many. He made his community better by the way he lived, led and worked, and he strengthened our nation immeasurably.

LETTER FROM CHAIRPERSON LOFGREN
TO SPEAKER PELOSI ON
THE DISPOSITION OF THE ELEC-
TION CONTEST IN IOWA'S SEC-
OND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I include the following letter in the RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I hereby report to the House the disposition of the election contest in Iowa's Second Congressional District. Contestant Rita Hart properly filed a notice of contest under the Federal Contested Election Act (FCEA) on December 22, 2020. Contestee Mariannette Miller-Meeks filed a motion to dismiss on January 21, 2021. On February 19, 2021, the Committee adopted a resolution to establish procedures in contested election cases properly filed under the FCEA in the 117th Congress. After reviewing additional filings from the parties, including a response to the Contestee's motion filed by the Contestant and a reply filed by the Contestee, the Committee on House Administration voted on March 10, 2021, to postpone

disposition of the motion to dismiss. On March 31, 2021, Contestant Hart announced she would withdraw her contest. A letter of withdrawal from Contestant Rita Hart, mailed on March 31, 2021, was transmitted to the Committee on House Administration by the Clerk of the House on April 8, 2021.

After a review of House and Committee precedent in contested elections cases in which the contestant withdraws, I have determined no further House or Committee action is required to dismiss the contest. The contestant's letter of withdrawal was entered into the record of the Committee on House Administration's Markup on April 28, 2021, and the Committee will take no further action on this contest.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,
Chairperson.

IN RECOGNITION OF JESÚS MORALES

HON. MARIE NEWMAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my guest to President Biden's Address to a Joint Session of Congress, Jesús Morales, who is a union hospitality worker in Illinois' Third District and a member of UNITE HERE Local 1. Thanks to the passage of the American Rescue Plan, laid off union workers are now able to stay on their employers' health plans until the fall, providing critical relief to workers like Jesús who was struggling to pay for the daily medicine and care his family needs.

Millions of union workers like Jesús—who have given decades to their work—saw their jobs taken away by this pandemic only to see their employer health plans taken away too. Without work and without relief from their government, these workers struggled between paying their families' urgently needed medicine and putting food on the table. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, workers like Jesús are now able to stay on their employer's health plans at no cost through the end of September.

Our union workers have given everything to our city and country, and it is time we honor them in return. That is why I am proud to honor Jesús this week as my virtual guest to President Biden's Address to a Joint Session of Congress. We will not stop fighting to ensure our workers and struggling families are receiving the relief they need to survive this pandemic.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Craig Skinner and the members of the University of Kentucky Volleyball Team on winning the 2021 NCAA Division I National Championship. This is the first national title for this outstanding program, located in Lexington, Kentucky.

The Wildcats won the Southeastern Conference for the fourth straight year. Defeating Texas in the title game in Omaha, Nebraska, U.K. ended the season 24–1. These impressive student-athletes stayed focused throughout the 2021 season and earned the championship on April 24th. Madison Lilley was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player and also the AVCA Player of the Year.

Coach Craig Skinner has led the Volleyball Team at the University of Kentucky since 2005. He was named the AVCA Coach of the Year and brought great excitement to the volleyball program. I thank him for his leadership and his dedication to these student-athletes. He has built an excellent program of which all Kentuckians can be proud.

Congratulations to Coach Skinner, the staff, and all the outstanding members of the 2021 NCAA Division I Volleyball National Championship team

HONORING WILLIAM “BILL” SPRINGER

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, William “Bill” Springer, for his more than thirty years of work advocating for the betterment of his community.

A true son of Sullivan County, Indiana, Bill, his two sisters, and two brothers were raised in that community. Bill and his beloved wife, Rita, raised their two sons in Sullivan. He demonstrated his dedication to the youth of the community each year by his involvement in annual events like the Easter Egg Hunt at City Park and the annual Halloween Walk Around the Square.

In recent years, Bill has operated the Sullivan County Indiana News on social media, a source that his community has relied on for important local information.

Bill has been dedicated advocate for responsible government. He led his political party for thirty years and assisted with federal, state, and local campaigns. His tireless efforts have helped several people take on leadership roles in Sullivan County.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring William “Bill” Springer, a native son of Sullivan County dedicated to improving the lives and communities of his fellow Hoosiers

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on the Legislative Day of April 19, 2021. For public safety reasons, had I been present for the roll call vote H.R. 1996—SAFE Banking Act of 2021, I would have cast the following vote: Roll Call 120: Yea.

CONGRATULATING DR. SANDRA CARRAWAY ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. Sandra Carraway, Superintendent of the Columbia County School System, for her commitment to our students' education, and to congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.

Dr. Carraway has dedicated her life to education, starting as a teacher and working her way up to superintendent. Both the county and school district saw growth while under her leadership, and she will be remembered for always prioritizing the well-being of our students—including in the midst of unprecedented challenges.

She led the school district as it was one of the first in Georgia to reopen following the COVID-19 outbreak. Thanks to her leadership, Columbia County students were able to continue learning and stay on track academically. I know parents are eternally grateful for her actions to get students back in the classroom in such a prompt and safe manner.

Congratulations, Dr. Carraway, on an incredible career. I wish her the very best as she enters a well-deserved retirement

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MICHAEL SPELLMAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding 34-year career in public safety of the City of Groton Police Chief Michael Spellman. Chief Spellman recently announced his retirement, after serving the public as a member of law enforcement in various capacities including resident state trooper for 25 years, followed by a stint as a detective in the statewide narcotics squad, and culminating in his appointment to the Chief of the Groton force. Throughout that long tenure he upheld the highest standards of ethics, professionalism, and compassion, never losing focus on his mission “to protect and serve.”

A lifelong proud resident of the Pawcatuck section of Stonington, Michael is a proud alumnus of Stonington High School where he was involved in student government, a multi-sport Varsity letterman, and an honorable mention as an Offensive Guard on the 1980 New Haven Register All State Team. Michael demonstrated his leadership skills early in life and took his talents to Central Connecticut State University where he would earn his B.A. in political science and public administration.

After earning his degree, Michael decided to dedicate himself to working on the front lines to protect the public as a law enforcement officer. In 1987, Michael graduated from the 96th Training Troop of The Connecticut State Police—the rest, they say, is history. Starting his career as a state trooper at Troop E in Montville, Michael served the community as a state police officer in East Lyme, Danielson, and Meriden. While simultaneously working as

a state trooper—Michael was also active in several community coalitions including the Quality-of-Life Task Force, The Women's Center of Northeast Connecticut Community Partnership Team, the statewide Casino Unit, among many other organizations. His hard work and dedication was rewarded when he was named State Police Troop Commander in Colchester, where he took command over 100 sworn and civilian employees providing primary law enforcement for 11 municipalities and a population of over 100,000. Between 2010 and 2014, Michael briefly departed the realm of public service to join the private sector as a security consultant. Heeding the call back to public service, however, Michael joined Groton's local force as a patrol officer in 2014. As was expected with his extensive background—he climbed the ranks to Chief in 2017, going on to work as a critical asset in furthering Groton City Police Department's mission to ensure the safety and protection of our citizens.

In his time as Chief of Groton Police Michael transformed the impact and culture of the local police force. His community policing style connected the department and members of the public in a way that allowed officers to work in tandem with citizens to tackle issues together. Under Michael's leadership the department also underwent an era of modernization, including joining the state radio system, implementing body cameras, de-escalation training, and hiring the first ALEC (Autism and Law Enforcement Education Coalition) certified instructor in Connecticut. These milestones exemplify only a small degree of what has been accomplished under Michael's leadership. For further example, in 2016 Michael made national headlines when he led the rescue mission to save a woman who accidentally drove her car into the Thames River. This act garnered Michael and two fellow officers the department's Lifesaving Award. One of my most memorable experiences as a Congress-

man was joining Chief Spellman for a ride along in the city a couple of years ago. He showed me parts of the community that were experiencing difficulty with the opioid crisis, and I saw him in action personally checking for the health and safety of some of the more vulnerable citizens who clearly regarded him as a friend and neighbor, not a threatening outsider. Police work is a difficult balancing act for even the most talented experienced officers, and he showed me his almost effortless skill in mastering that balance.

Michael amassed a multitude of accolades and awards throughout his career including MADD awards for DWI enforcement and education, the Women's Center of NECT Connecticut Crisis Center Distinguished Professional Award, five Outstanding Service Medals, three Unit Citations, and many other recognitions. A heavily decorated career such as Chief Spellman's represents his true commitment to keeping the community safe. One final comment I would like to share is that Chief Spellman comes from a family in which public service is an honored tradition. His late father James, Senior was a longtime first selectman of Stonington who made a huge positive difference in southeastern Connecticut. His brothers also have been pillars in the community in various local and state offices and endeavors. I truly believe that his dad would be immensely proud of them all and applaud Michael's departure on his own terms with a sterling reputation that upholds the family's legacy.

Madam Speaker, now, in May 2021, we sadly say goodbye to Michael's conscientious leadership. As he steps down from his post as Chief, we can only go on to hope that the example of his leadership will pass down to future generations within the Groton Police Department. I want to congratulate Michael on a civic service career spanning thirty-four years, and with this congratulations I ask the Chamber join me in appreciating Groton Police

Chief Michael Spellman and his dedication to serving the public. We thank Michael for everything he has done as a first responder. Best wishes to him for a joyful retirement and I wish his wife Heather Buffinton and two children, Michael and Hannah, continued happiness, and success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 12

10 A.M.

Committee on Appropriations

To hold hearings to examine domestic violent extremism in America.

SH-216